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Expect 'pandemonium' with extra seating, Riders say

Mosaic. Renovation of stadium means fans at home games can really make some noise now

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

More of us can go to Riders games now that a $14-million renovation has boosted the capacity of Mosaic Stadium to 32,898.

Two giant stands have been put at the north and south ends of the field, turning Mosaic into a bowl-like stadium.

Video scoreboards have also been installed around the field, drastically changing Mosaic's look and feel. Of particular note are two large end-zone screens, one measuring 157 square metres. The second is a large screen in the shape of Saskatchewan — got to love the symbolism.

Here is what some of the Riders players and staff had to say about the new stadium:

Defensive end Brent Hawkins: "It gets my heart racing, seeing the Jumbotron and all that stuff up there. It is crazy to have all these new facilities to help the fans watch us play."

Left guard Brendon LaBatte: "It is a great stadium. I can't wait to hear the atmosphere with the ends all closed in and the scoreboards all round. I mean, it looks the part of a professional stadium."

Defensive end Odell Willis: "It is going to be pandemonium when we come out here. I mean, I wish we could kick off right now."

Head coach Corey Chamblin: "Before the seats were added it was already really loud, so I can only imagine what it is going to sound like when we play now."

Follow Jeff Mackey on Twitter @MetroJeffMackey

Darian Durant hits the field at Mosaic Stadium Thursday in preparation for the Riders' home game versus the Calgary Stampeders tonight. Along with the drastically different Riders team that will be taking the field, fans will also be able to check out the new and improved Mosaic Stadium. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

Hopson

CEO chimes in on renovations

"It is a whole new look and I think people are going to be pretty happy," said Roughriders CEO Jim Hopson. "We can't kid anybody, this is not a new stadium, but this does improve on what we have and it will get us through until we do have that new stadium.

"Realistically, there is a lifespan on a stadium and we are starting to push the envelope with this one. But this will get us through the next four or five years."

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

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NEWS

On the web

Otter's secret to staying cool

As a heat wave blanketed most of Central and Eastern Canada on Thursday, one otter from a U.S. city found an adorably cute way to stay cool. Go to metronews.ca to watch the video.

Like supermodel, like McDonald's burger

Apparently there's not much difference between a supermodel and a McDonald's cheeseburger — both rely on stylists and photographers to look their best. Go to metronews.ca to watch a popular video that takes viewers behind the scenes of a burger print ad.

Mobile news

A controversial bird-flu study, blocked because of biosecurity concerns, will finally be published despite experts' best efforts to censor the report. Scan the code to read the full story.

Edward Lerat, vice-chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, greets Jim Reiter, minister of First Nations, Métis and northern affairs, at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission welcoming ceremony on Thursday. The gathering of residential school survivors runs until Sunday. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Giving residential school survivors a chance to speak

Truth and Reconciliation. Survivors gather to honour the past and look to the future

Coming to terms with the pain

"It has affected all of our families for so many generations now. It's hard."

Caroline Wasacase, residential school survivor

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Survivors of Canada's residential schools were in Saskatchewan on Thursday for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's national event, and some say they've been waiting a long time for the chance to tell their stories.

Caroline Wasacase, a survivor who was here for support, said talking about her experience is difficult.

"It has affected all of our families for so many generations now. It's hard," she said.

Albert Bear, who is not a residential school survivor but attended an "Indian day school" run by the federal government, said the national event is the start of healing.

"Now they can look back with a mature perspective at the traumatic experience and they can come to terms with it — with the proper coping tools — to forget, to forgive and to let go," Bear said. "After disclosing it, it's coming to terms with the traumatic event."

He continued, "For me, I went through a lot of traumatic experiences, but I had to look at it from an adult perspective, because when I was young, I was totally immature. I didn't know how to deal with it. But now that I look at it with a mature perspective, it's a whole lot easier to come to terms with it."

Laura Marjorie Finn said her mother, who attended a residential school, wanted to get an education, but the highest level she achieved was Grade 3 since she was forced to work.

"She had a lot to say," Finn said. "She went away to school for a few years … and she stayed there for maybe 10 or so, but they didn't give them a high grade. They only got a Grade 3 education because they were doing a lot of work."

She added, "When she got to be 18 or 20 years old, they put them out to work on farms … and she had to do all kinds of work, even outside work for no pay, just for the room and board."

Judge Murray Sinclair, chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said even though the national event serves as an important step in documenting stories about abuses in residential schools, it's also about moving forward. "Reconciliation is not just about the survivors. It's also about the future," he said. "We take it as a very sacred responsibility for this commission to ensure there is a national memory created around residential schools and no one will ever be allowed to say, 'This never happened.'"

End freebie Riders tickets, taxpayers group says

Hundreds of Roughriders tickets were handed out last year to Crown corporations, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) says in a report released on Wednesday.

"Roughrider fans seeking tickets for any of the team's seven sold-out home games last year may (have) missed the game thanks to a few Crown corporations receiving hundreds of tickets," the citizens' advocacy group says in the report.

The claim is backed by freedom-of-information requests filed by the CTF that detail the number of Riders tickets that SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SGI received last year.

Combined, the three Crown corporations held 67 sets of season tickets and 120 single-game tickets. Mosaic Stadium holds more than 30,000 people.

In the case of SaskPower and SGI, the tickets were received as part of large sponsorship deals with the team, which also includes advertising around the stadium.

"We do not purchase any Riders tickets other than what we receive for the specific sponsorships," said Rebecca Rogoschewsky, manager of media relations at SGI. "It is a two-way relationship and we do receive a few tickets in return for that sponsorship."

Many of the tickets are used as employee incentives or in raffles. SGI gave 100 individual tickets as a reward to its volunteers last year.

"We have been a supporter of the Riders for over 20 years," said Dave Burdeniuk director of communications at SaskEnergy. "Those (tickets) are used for business or community hosting. Part of relationship-building in business is hosting and we do a modest amount of that."

But the CTF believes even a modest amount is too much.

"This is similar to what was happening in Winnipeg with the Jets tickets," said CTF Prairie director Colin Craig.

A scandal arose in Winnipeg last season when many of the Jets' season tickets were held by Crown corporations in Manitoba, with some politicians and high-level bureaucrats getting free tickets.

The situation got so bad that, in May, the Manitoba government barred cabinet ministers and Crown corporation board members from accepting free Jets or Blue Bombers tickets.

How does the Roughriders situation compare to the Jets scandal?

"It pales in comparison with what was happening with the Jets situation," Craig said. "Still, usually you can negotiate these deals without getting the tickets as a kickback." JEFF MACKEY/METRO

Riverbank threat

'Slope failure' near river prompts evacuation warning

Up to 80 people in Saskatoon were asked to evacuate their homes on Thursday night after a number of backyard properties adjacent to the river started to collapse.

Mike Gutek, Saskatoon's infrastructure-services general manager, says there's a lane behind the houses and a "slope failure" took place that affected power and gas.

He says the evacuation is voluntary but described the damage as significant. One patio sank by more than a metre and at least one power pole was sitting at a 40-degree angle.

City workers and engineers are investigating. Gutek compares the slope failure to what happened near the University Bridge in 2007, when heavy rains caused the riverbank to collapse, costing the city $2.6 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Break-and-enter

Burglar foiled by hunger pangs: Cops

A homeowner got a surprise on Wednesday night when he returned to his house to discover someone had broken in. But instead of heading to the jewelry box, police say the thief went for the breadbox. Saskatoon police responded to a call about "a male eating in the kitchen." They found a suspect leaving through the back door. He was apprehended in the backyard and placed under arrest. METRO

Research

Scholar to explore native healing for addiction

The University of Saskatchewan is examining how to use traditional First Nations culture as a healing force in substance-abuse programs.

Colleen Anne Dell, who holds the U of S research chair in substance abuse, has been awarded nearly $1.2 million to explore the impact of aboriginal cultural practices.

"By creating understanding of what practices work and how they achieve success, we hope to improve health programming for First Nations peoples struggling with addiction," Dell said in a release. METRO

Blades defenceman within reach of his Canucks dream

2012 NHL draft. 'It's a very exciting time for me and my family,' says Dalton Thrower

DORIAN GEIGER
dorian.geiger@metronews.ca

Blades defenceman Dalton Thrower battles with a Medicine Hat Tigers forward in front of Saskatoon goaltender Andrey Makarov. CONTRIBUTED

Saskatoon Blades defenceman Dalton Thrower is a Vancouverite, and he has long dreamt of lacing up for his hometown Canucks. This dream could be realized when Thrower travels to the 2012 NHL draft in Pittsburgh Friday.

"I grew up watching the Canucks. Ever since I was a kid we had season tickets. I think the most ideal place would be in Vancouver — close to my family and friends," said Thrower.

Ranked 26th by NHL's Central Scouting, the three-year veteran of the Blades could potentially be a first-round selection. "I'm going to have fun with it. It's a very exciting time for me and my family. I'm a little bit nervous but it's going to be a great experience. It's a real honour.... It only happens once in your life," he said.

Out of the NHL's 27 clubs, 19 want a piece of Thrower — at least, that's how many teams approached him at the NHL combine.

Blades bench boss Lorne Molleken has witnessed substantial growth in Thrower. "He's a defenceman we rely on heavily. After Christmas he really elevated his game as far as the offensive side of it goes and played a major role. He can play in any situation. For the most part he's on the ice in the last minute of the game against the other team's best players," said Molleken.

Regardless of the NHL draft's outcome, Thrower will likely return to the Blades blue-line for the 2012-13 WHL season. Blades players Lukas Sutter and Andrey Makarov will also have a chance to be drafted on Friday.

Follow Dorian Geiger on Twitter @dgiegs

School of hard knocks

Tough — on and off the ice

Thrower's resilience is not only apparent as a player, but as an individual, too.

When he was six, Thrower was involved in a vicious accident on British Columbia's Coquihalla Highway. Out of five passengers, Thrower was the only one not ejected from a vehicle during the crash. Aside from this brush with death, both his parents were diagnosed with cancer while he's been in Saskatoon. Despite fearing for his parents' lives, they pushed him to remain in Saskatchewan. Instead of forcing tears, Thrower bled blue — and it has paid off.

"He is a tough, strong, focused kid and has very strong family support. If it wasn't for his mom and dad continuing to push him, he probably would have packed up in his first year and gone home," said Jackie Bahnmann, one of Thrower's Saskatoon host parents.

TransWest Air

Sorry we forgot you! It won't happen again

A regional airline in Saskatchewan says it has made changes to make sure it doesn't again forget to pick up its customers. TransWest Air of Prince Albert abandoned a group of SaskPower employees working on a project in a remote northern area on April 21.

When a plane failed to pick them up at the end of the day, the workers built shelters and spent the night in the bush. A plane picked them up the next day and returned them to their work camp. SaskPower says an investigation has determined there was poor communication between the airline's dispatch and air crews. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lost custody. Obese dad to go on hunger strike

An Ottawa man who lost custody of his two kids partly due to being overweight said he will go on a hunger strike Friday on Parliament Hill to strike back at the Children's Aid Society.

In an Ontario Superior Court ruling Wednesday, Justice Martin James said the 38-year-old man's boys, aged four and six, would be given up for adoption and live apart from each other.

"(The father's) weight-loss regime is itself a full-time job," the ruling said.

The ruling also claimed that he played online video games for hours on end and tends to be "combative when people don't agree with him."

"I'm going to go on an international stage and expose this and my children will know what their father's done for them," the father said. "I hope I get to appeal and disprove all of this."

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

'Major factor'

The father's weight was mentioned several times in the 33-page ruling and was a "major factor" in the judge's decision, the man said.

- He weighs about 360 pounds and was at 520 pounds at his heaviest.

B.C.

School on lockdown after black bear evades officers

A Victoria school was put on lockdown for about two hours Wednesday afternoon, as conservation officers searched for a black bear. The animal had been hit by a pickup truck on the Island Highway earlier that morning and ran into a wooded area close to Eagle View Elementary. School staff were told to keep the children inside because injured bears can be unpredictable, said conservation officer Peter Pauwels. After struggling to locate the bear in the thick brush, officers called in the hounds and they were able to spot it as it ran from the dogs. It appeared to be uninjured.

ELIZABETH HAMES/METRO IN VICTORIA

Video of bullied woman spurs Toronto man to fundraise for her vacation

Outpouring of support. Indiegogo.com has raised more than $250,000 US for the grandmother of eight

A viral video of a school bus monitor in New York state being bullied by four middle schoolers prompted a Toronto man to launch a fundraiser to send the woman on vacation.

"I felt deeply sad for Karen," said Max Sidorov, a graduate of York University. "I had some issues with bullying myself when I was a young kid and had just come to Canada, so I know where she's coming from."

The taunting and verbal abuse of the bus monitor was captured in a 10-minute cellphone video recorded by one of the students and posted to YouTube. It shows 68-year-old Karen Klein trying her best to ignore the stream of profanity, insults and outright threats directed at her. At one point in the video, she breaks down in tears. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Making the bus monitor cry" has racked up more than 1.5-million views.

METRO SCREEN SHOT/YOUTUBE.COM

'More respectful'

Parents should talk to boys: Victim

Meanwhile, Karen Klein has told police she does not want the boys to face criminal charges. She said she is happy with the swift and strong community response against the verbal attack aboard a Greece Central School District bus, authorities said Thursday.

Criminally charging the boys, all seventh-graders, would require their conduct to rise to the level of a crime, Greece police Capt. Steve Chatterton said. So far, it has not been found to reach that level.

Klein said she hoped the boys' parents would view the video of the attack and talk to their children about being "a little more respectful." Parents of all four boys are co-operating fully and say their children will be punished, Chatterton said.

By Thursday morning, the video had been viewed more than 1.5-million times on YouTube.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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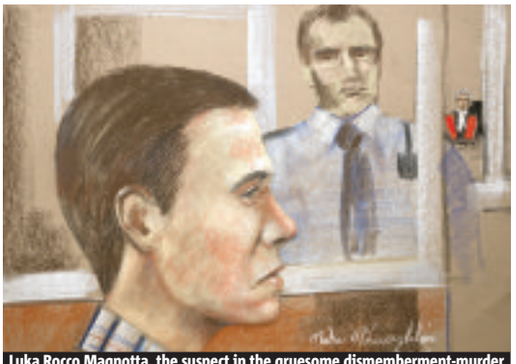
Accused body-parts killer Magnotta gets trial by jury

Court appearance. Suspect declines psychiatric evaluation, will face preliminary hearing in March 2013



Luka Rocco Magnotta, the suspect in the gruesome dismemberment-murder of Jun Lin, is seen in court in an artist's drawing on Thursday in Montreal.
MIKE MCLAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luka Rocco Magnotta made a brief, surprise appearance in a Montreal courtroom Thursday to tie up a few loose ends in his case before vanishing from public view until early 2013.

The accused body-parts killer had court dates set for early next year and was told he will face a preliminary hearing next March where part of the evidence against him will be heard.

Magnotta, charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Chinese student Jun Lin, 33, has opted for a trial in front of a jury.

He asked that he receive medication while incarcerated.

And he introduced his team of three lawyers, including a lead attorney from Toronto. That lawyer did not ask for a psychiatric evaluation, contrary to what one of his colleagues suggested earlier in the week.

There was one other surprise twist Thursday: Magnotta appeared in court in person. Authorities had hinted that the 29-year-old murder suspect would appear by video link, as he had at his first court appearance earlier this week.

While Magnotta looked sleepy, he appeared to follow the proceedings attentively.

His lead defence attorney, Luc Leclair, made a brief statement at the end of the hearing.

"Mr. Magnotta waived his rights to extradition because he wanted to come back to Montreal," Leclair said, without taking any questions.

"He trusts the Canadian judicial system."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luc Leclair

Tory lawyer to defend Magnotta

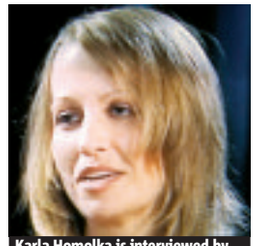
So who will defend Luka Rocco Magnotta — the man accused of mailing body parts to the Conservative Party of Canada? Ironically, it will be a Conservative.

Toronto lawyer Luc Leclair, who has worked on campaigns for several prominent Conservatives, will represent Magnotta.

He worked with Defence Minister Peter MacKay, in his bid for the Progressive Conservative leadership in 2003; with Belinda Stronach, when she ran for the leadership of the new federal party against Prime Minister Stephen Harper; and with John Tory, the former leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservatives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Killer. Homolka now a mother of three living in Guadeloupe: Ebook



Karla Homolka is interviewed by Radio-Canada in Montreal on July 4, 2005, hours after her release from jail following a 12-year term for the deaths of two teenage girls in Ontario.
RADIO CANADA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

She horrified the country with her role in the torture and killing of Ontario schoolgirls two decades ago, and now she has three children of her own.

Years after her case gripped the country, Karla Homolka has been found living in the Caribbean under a different name with a husband and three young children.

The details of her life after 12 years in prison are detailed in an 46-page ebook by journalist Paula Todd, titled Finding Karla.

In the early 1990s, Homolka and her then-husband, Paul Bernardo, were convicted of crimes related to the rape and murder of two schoolgirls, Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy.

While Bernardo went on to be sentenced to life in prison, Homolka struck a deal with prosecutors in 1993 to serve 12 years in prison for manslaughter.

Little has been known about Homolka's life since she was released from prison in 2005.

For Todd, that lack of information drove her to figure out what had become of the notorious killer ever since she walked free.

Online research for a book about the life of released criminals led her to blog reports of Homolka teaching children in the Caribbean — reports Todd later found were false, but they were a starting point for a deeper search.

After mining the Internet for any scrap of information she could find, Todd decided to follow an obscure lead that led her to the island of Guadeloupe in May. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pineapple haven

Oracle CEO to buy Hawaiian island

Oracle Corp. CEO Larry Ellison is closing in on a purchase even lottery winners can only dream about — 98 per cent of Hawaii's pineapple island, Lanai.

Ellison hasn't said what he plans to do with the vast majority of the island's 141 square miles, but the sellers say he plans substantial investments that will create jobs and stimulate tourism to the island once owned in the 1920s by the founder of Dole Foods.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
97.15¢ US (-0.97¢)

TSX
11,408.32 (-351.03)

OIL
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GOLD
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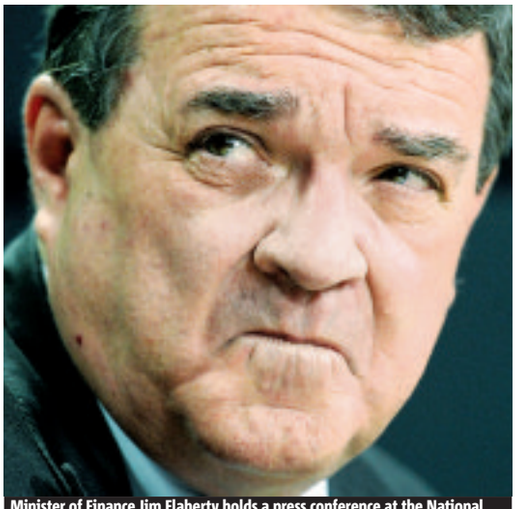
Natural gas: $2.525 US (+6.5¢)
Dow Jones: 12,573.57 (-250.82)

Flaherty introduces new mortgage, lending rules

Expected announcement. Both Flaherty and Bank of Canada head Mark Carney have expressed concern about rising household debt



Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty holds a press conference at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buying a first home or taking out a loan against an existing residence will be more difficult for Canadians under new rules announced Thursday, but Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says it's for their own good.

For the fourth time in as many years, the finance minister moved to tighten the mortgage and lending landscape — changes that mean up to five per cent of Canadians who might be considering buying a new home will likely no longer qualify.

This time Flaherty's cutting the maximum amortization period for government-insured homes to 25 years from the current 30 years, and limiting how much homeowners can borrow on the value of their homes to 80 per cent from 85 per cent.

Those are not the only changes the government is making.

It will no longer be in the business of insuring homes that are worth more than $1 million — meaning buyers will need to put up at least a 20 per cent down payment or seek private insurance.

As well, it will insist that prospective buyers have the means to afford mortgage payments, property taxes and heating costs on their home.

It will do so by setting cost ratios based on household income — a kind of affordability ratio — of 39 per cent for gross debt service and 44 per cent for total debt service.

"It's a question of trying to moderate behaviour and I hope Canadians will reflect before they jump into a market at the high end," Flaherty said.

"It will mean that some people will not buy into the market. It will also mean that some people will buy less into the market; they'll buy a less expensive home or less expensive condominium.

"Good. I consider that desirable."

The changes go into effect July 9.

The most significant change is the reduction to the amortization period, bringing it back to the level it had stood historically before rising to as high as 40 years during the heady pre-recession days of 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada

Economy running on fumes: Carney

Canada's relatively healthy economy has been largely based on borrowed money but the situation cannot go on indefinitely, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney warned Thursday.

The central bank governor's stern words to a business audience in Halifax came just hours after federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty moved to clamp down on household lending.

Carney made clear that he endorses the moves, calling them "prudent" and "timely" to support the long-term stability of the housing market and guard against financial excesses.

Carney suggested he has no patience for the view that instead of raising interest rates his next move will be to cut the trendsetting overnight rate from the current one per cent, where it's been since September 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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T5447	2011 Chevrolet Impala	WAS $20,995	NOW $16,995 / $113BW
T5458	2011 Kia Soul, 32451kms	WAS $20,995	NOW $16,995 / $109BW
T5384	2011 Hyundai Santa Fe, 34645kms	WAS $30,995	NOW $26,995 / $179BW
T5434	2011 Dodge Ram 1500, 43636kms	WAS $31,995	NOW $27,995 / $185BW
T5423	2011 Ford F350 Super Duty, 38558kms	WAS $34,995	NOW $30,995 / $199BW
T5430	2011 Cadillac Escalade, 24282kms	WAS $62,995	NOW $55,995 / $375BW
T5396	2011 Ford Escape, 21383kms	WAS $32,995	NOW $28,995 / $194BW
N5438A	2010 Ford Expedition, 41505kms	WAS $33,995	NOW $29,995 / $227BW
T5401	2010 Ford Edge, 45746kms	WAS $29,995	NOW $25,995 / $199BW
N32446A	2010 Chrysler 300-Series, 80306kms	WAS $17,995	NOW $13,995 / $105BW
N32364A	2010 Hyundai Accent, 49,946kms	WAS $13,995	NOW $9,995 / $75BW
N33021A	2009 Toyota Corolla, 54640kms	WAS $14,995	NOW $10,995 / $79BW
T5440	2009 Hyundai Elantra, 50930kms	WAS $14,995	NOW $10,995 / $79BW
N33002A	2008 Hyundai Elantra, 81408kms	WAS $12,995	NOW $8,995 / $79BW
N32490A	2007 Kia Rondo, 104487kms	WAS $13,995	NOW $9,995 / $85BW
N32266A	2006 Jeep Commander, 91764kms	WAS $19,995	NOW $15,995 / $169BW
N5446A	2001 Dodge Ram 1500, 150650kms	WAS $14,995	NOW $10,995 / $119BW

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THERE'S A FIRE STARTING IN HER HEART

THE LIST
Neil Morton
Metro

1 **Nik Wallenda:** The high-wire artist calmly crossed over Niagara Falls with nerves of steel, all the while talking to his father and play-by-play commentators on ABC on a broadcast that 13.1-million viewers watched. The only thing he didn't do was send a live tweet. But he did tweet right after @NikWallenda: "Love you Niagara. What's next?" Apparently the Grand Canyon.

2 **Radiohead/the Flaming Lips:** In a "great cosmic collision" of live music, the Flaming Lips and Radiohead were to perform simultaneous sets in Toronto Saturday night. Except Radiohead's concert was cancelled after a pre-show stage collapse at Downsview Park, resulting in the death of drum tech Scott Johnson. The Flaming Lips paid moving tribute, covering Radiohead's Knives Out at Yonge-Dundas Square.

3 **Carly Rae Jepsen:** Even Katy Perry's daring nude bodysuit couldn't trump Mission, B.C.'s pop sensation Carly Rae Jepsen. The first-time MuchMusic Video Awards performer was the big winner with three MMVAs for video of the year, MuchMusic.com's most watched video, and fan-driven ur fave video of the year for Call Me Maybe. World domination is imminent.

4 **Justin Trudeau for prime minister?** With the Liberal party leadership up for grabs after Bob Rae's announcement he won't run, many are wondering if the charismatic son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau will vie for the party leadership. Justin is considering running, and a poll says 42 per cent of Canadians think he would do a good job. Trudeaumania: The Sequel.

5 **Rodney King:** After his brutal beating by police officers in 1991 stunned a nation, King went on national TV a year later following their acquittals, which started race riots in L.A., and pleaded for peace. King himself never found peace, battling alcohol and arrests — and was found dead in his pool Sunday morning at the age of 47. Fitting, perhaps, that it was officers who pulled him out and tried to perform CPR on him.

6 **Cristiano Ronaldo:** Ronaldo was a bust on the international stage, until shining for the first time at Euro 2012 this week — scoring three dramatic goals in Portugal's two wins to push them into the semi-finals. He's no Pele, but he has put himself among the greats. And he can definitely bend it like Beckham.

7 **Will turns 30:** It's hard to believe but the little boy who grew up before the world's eyes — son of the iconic Diana, Princess of Wales — turned the big 3-0 this week. No word on what Kate got him, but I would have recommended a flash mob with the Queen, Kate, Harry, Charles and the guards at Buckingham Palace.

8 **Beau Hossler:** The amateur golfer participated in the U.S. Open on the weekend, and while he didn't come close to winning — he finished tied for 29th after briefly holding the lead in the second round — remember this: He's only 17. He was cheered and serenaded at every hole, and given a standing ovation at the end. "Let's Go Hoss-ler" tees may someday go viral.

9 **Jack Osbourne:** The reality TV star from the famous Osbourne family announced he's been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, discovering he had it after losing much of the vision in his right eye. "Adapt and overcome is my new motto," says Osbourne, who recently became a dad. And now possibly a spokesperson for the disease à la Montel Williams.

10 **Canada's Walk of Fame:** Musicians Randy Bachman and Sarah McLachlan, the late comedian Phil Hartman, ballerina Sonia Rodriguez, football player Russ Jackson and the 1972 members of Team Canada are among this year's inductees to Canada's Walk of Fame, and will get a star in Toronto's entertainment district on Sept. 22. For some reason, I didn't make the cut this year.

11 **Adele's miracle:** Her hit single Rolling in the Deep awoke from a coma a seven-year-old British girl, Charlotte Neve, who had suffered a brain hemorrhage. She wasn't expected to survive, but after lying comatose for a week Adele's song came on the hospital radio, Mom sang it to her and little Charlotte broke into a smile. She has since recovered. Miracle song.

Festival gets colourful kickoff

MAHESH KUMAR A./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hindus honour gods

Chariots pulled by large crowds

Hindu devotees from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) touch a painting in reverence on a road surface during a chariot procession of lord Jagannath in Hyderabad, India, Thursday.

The annual procession of the three idols of lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra is taken out in a grand procession in specially made chariots called raths, which are pulled by thousands of devotees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Devotees throng around the chariots as they wait to pull them during the annual Hindu festival Rath Yatra, or chariot procession, in Puri, Orissa state, India. Inset: An Indian man dressed up as monkey god Hanuman.
BISWARANJAN ROUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Nine-day celebration

Three deities worshipped

The nine-day Indian celebration marks the annual journey of the three deities to the Devi Gundicha temple, which belongs to their aunt.

"Normally, the deities are worshipped within the temple throughout the year. However, on the day of Rath Yatra, they are taken through the Badadanda so that devotees — including non-Hindus and foreigners who are not allowed inside the temple — can have a glimpse of the gods," a member of the temple told the Hindustan Times. METRO

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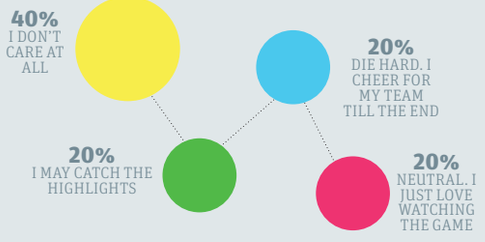

Twitter

@eh41: Will be attending the #TRC event today in #Saskatoon #yxe with my aunty Sherry. It will prove to be an emotional day, I am sure of it.

@Mattz: @PremierBradWall please watch "Film...It's Everyone's Business"

@dejong: Has anyone read Richard Ford's 'Canada' ? It's piqued my interest since hearing it's story is set in Saskatchewan

@Claire_MP: Beautiful day in the neighborhood. Smell of sausage still lingering on the breeze from pancake breakfast. #yxe

@torandobni: Yay. Power outage right when I go to register for classes... #yxe

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FEIST

Saskatchewan still feels like home

No matter where Canadian musician Feist is in the world, the indie-pop singer remains dialed into prairie culture.

Leslie Feist was born in Nova Scotia and grew up mostly in Calgary but she maintains a Saskatchewan connection through her grandparents, whom she once lived with in Regina as a child.

"All of my strongest and best memories are from the five-square blocks around my grandparents' house in Regina," said Feist via email from Europe.

"They had a swimming pool in the backyard and I remember long summer evenings with the smell of chlorine, wet garden dirt, cigarettes and pop in plastic cups."

She may have toured everywhere, from Sydney to Amsterdam, but the "land of the living skies" still captivates the 36-year-old.

"The colour of the skies in the Prairies are incomparable to any other place I've been, and to this day I feel a real wave of home whenever I cross into Saskatchewan."

One of the festival's headlining acts, she shattered a Jazz Festival record, becoming the fastest headlining artist to sell out with 3,200 sales.

Feist has sold nearly three million albums worldwide and her newest album, Metals, was released in September, 2011. She captured three Juno Awards in 2012 for Artist of the Year, Adult Alternative Album of the Year (Metals) and Music DVD of the Year for her documentary Look at What the Light Did Now.

Like fellow festival headliners The Roots or Janelle Monáe, Feist's accomplishments are wide-ranging. Feist's 2007 hit single 1234 propelled her to global fame, giving her the chance to appear on iconic children's show Sesame Street.

"They wanted me to appear and sing 1234, with the lyrics rewritten as a learning-to-count song. At first I was like, 'really?' I went on YouTube and I was watching other ones and they're incredible. REM sings Shiny Happy People as happy furry monsters. James Blunt does You're Beautiful as a triangle."

Although Feist has lived a rock-star lifestyle for much of the past decade, teaching children to count through the power of music was right up her alley.

"So, I'm on Sesame Street, walking around with all these monsters, Elmo and his buddies, a whole bunch of chickens, a whole bunch of penguins and a number four dancing about. It was just pure joy — simple, ridiculous fun. Sesame Street is just a crazy great place to be."

- **Feist.** June 23, Bessborough Gardens

Festival director

The event, then and now

From its humble beginnings in 1987, the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival has transformed Saskatoon into a mecca of jazz on the Prairies.

Amidst the city's surplus of summer festivals, the Jazz Festival is truly unique. It brings 80,000 music fans and performers from across the world in what has become the second largest jazz festival in Western Canada, after Vancouver's.

Although traditional and contemporary jazz is the festival's heart and soul, blues, big band, funk, soul, R&B, reggae, hip-hop and bluegrass are genres that will also be featured during Jazz Festival's 135 performances. Nineteen venues across Saskatoon will be used, with a large number of shows held in the beautiful Delta Bessborough Gardens.

Festival director Kevin Tobin has been coordinating the Jazz Festival since 2005.

"I think that the vision of the organization has stayed the same. The community has certainly changed. The festival is trying to be a reflection of the diversity of the community," said Tobin.

Tobin has noticed a shift in demographics, which have stretched the festival's genre boundaries. Previous headliners like hip-hop-oriented De La Soul or The Roots would have been unheard of at the festival a decade ago.

"The listenership of jazz has changed. The festival has a real pedigree of bringing in artists and promoting good music throughout its history," said Tobin. "The diversity of the music has changed considerably. We weren't doing Feist in 1995 and our audience has grown with the festival."

Tobin is adamant that the Jazz Festival is above all a community function and such features of the festival like the free stage are a testament to this. He said a free stage with regular performances from festival musicians will be set up for those who prefer not to pay.

"It completely strips all economic barriers from the festival. You can go out there on a Saturday and sit out there for 10 hours and not spend a cent. That's pretty great."

The marketing and promotional aspect of the festival has also drastically evolved. Reaching Jazz Festival's demographic has never been easier thanks to social media.

"There was no Twitter when I started back in 2000. It's huge for us now."

DORIAN GEIGER/METRO

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JILL BARBER

Popularity soars in Saskatoon

Inspired by some of the greatest ladies of song, such as Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald, Jill Barber's enchanting music conjures images of bygone eras, classy cocktails and easy days.

It's a sound that has attracted many Saskatoon fans, and nearly every time she plays her tickets sell out. And with tickets to her performance selling out by June 11, it's clear Saskatoon has a soft spot for Barber's classic voice and captivating lyrics.

"The thing with festivals is that they have a real community feeling. We are all in it together," says Barber.

"Audiences trust the festival bookers — they trust them to book bands and musicians that are good and that they'll enjoy."

Barber says that playing in a festival this size is a good way to play for current fans, while exposing new people to her music for the first time. But, she adds, playing in jazz festivals is still a fairly new experience for her.

"What has happened is the lines between genres have been blurred, all in the interest of serving a larger audience. This is very good news for (those of) us who don't necessarily fit into one specific genre."

"Playing in a jazz festival like this one really speaks to the evolution of my music and my sound," Barber added.

"I've had wonderful experiences playing Saskatoon in the past. The audience was really warm," she says. "It's so comfortable there, I don't feel as nervous playing for that crowd."

Barber says that the first time she played in Saskatoon, she loved it so much that she wrote a song about the city and aptly called it Saskatoon.

She adds that she is excited to meet Peter Appleyard, with whom she is performing, because though they have recently worked together on an album, collaboration was done remotely and the two have yet to meet.

- **Jill Barber with Peter Appleyard Quintet.** June 29, Broadway Theatre

JANELLE MONÁE

Jazz robot visits festival

As bizarre as she is soulful and sexy, Janelle Monáe is one of the jazz festival's most striking performers.

Monáe was relatively unheard of just a few years ago but now her voice stretches across the world. Growing up in Kansas, Monáe felt under-stimulated by her surroundings.

"There was a lot of confusion and nonsense where I grew up, so I reacted by creating my own little world," said Monáe in prior interviews.

"I began to see how music could change lives, and I began to dream about a world where every day was like anime and Broadway, where music fell from the sky and anything could happen."

After meeting Outkast's Big Boi in Atlanta, Monáe was introduced to Sean "Diddy" Combs and was signed to Bad Boy Records in 2006. She debuted with the EP Metropolis: Suite I (The Chase) and released her follow-up album ArchAndroid (Suites II and III) in 2010. ArchAndroid received a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary R&B Album.

From her hair to her tuxedos and obsession with robots, Monáe is quirky. However, her talent allows her such oddities, and few mainstream female vocalists rival her today.

Monáe's ultimate trademark is her ability to rock a tuxedo, and look good doing it.

"I bathe in it, I swim in it, and I could be buried in it. A tux is such a standard uniform, it's so classy and it's a lifestyle I enjoy. The tux keeps me balanced," said Monáe. "I look at myself as a canvas. I don't want to cloud myself with too many colours or I'll go crazy. It's an experiment I'm doing."

Robots have especially captivated Monáe's imagination.

Both Metropolis and ArchAndroid tell the story of Monáe's alter-ego, Cindi Mayweather, who is the victim of a futuristic society plagued by social upheaval.

"Cindi is an android and I love speaking about the android because they are the new 'other'. People are afraid of the other and I believe we're going to live in a world with androids because of technology and the way it advances," explained Monáe. "(In) the first album she was running because she had fallen in love with a human and she was being disassembled for that."

DORIAN GEIGER/METRO

- **Janelle Monáe.** June 24, Bessborough Gardens

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QUESTLOVE

'Rooted' in popular culture

Questlove has slow-jammed with President Barack Obama, has appeared in skits with comedian Dave Chappelle, and has produced songs for Jay-Z and Common.

Aside from pioneering Grammy-Award-winning jazz hip-hop band The Roots as a drummer in Philadelphia, Questlove is a respected DJ, producer and music journalist. He and Tariq Trotter formed The Roots — known then as the Square Roots — in 1987, helping to cultivate the new genre of neo soul.

Questlove, whose real name is Ahmir Khalib Thompson, has found equal success in film. He is in Spike Lee films and the recent Tribe Called Quest documentary Beats Rhymes and Life, but it's little known that Thompson is also a comedic genius.

A former actor and musical director of Chappelle's Show, he credits Chappelle and his partner Neil Brennan for setting The Roots up with talk show host Jimmy Fallon.

"Neil Brennan recommended that The Roots be the house band for the Fallon show. Brennan is the one that put it together," said Thompson.

Following Obama's musical sketch appearance on Late Night in April, the president dubbed The Roots the White House's official band. An Obama supporter, Thompson said that rocking out with one of the world's most important men was intimidating.

"He was cooler than a fan. We were all nervous — crossing our 't's' and dotting our 'i's' while rehearsing. He walked in a like a pro and goes 'all right, let's do it.' And he did it perfectly. I was like 'Oh my God, what's your secret?' And he's like 'I work great under pressure.'"

This is the second time in three years The Roots have played Jazz Festival.

"Last time we came, that was a monumental show. I'm really excited," said Thompson.

- **The Roots.** July 1. Bessborough Gardens
- **DJ Questlove.** July 1, The Odeon

Musical hub

Musicians at home in Saskatoon

Saskatoon's musical vitality can be credited largely to the colourful musicians that make up the cultural fabric of the city's music scene.

Musicians like Joni Mitchell, Wide Mouth Mason and the Sheepdogs have played an integral role in maintaining Saskatoon's reputation as an appealing centre to base oneself as a musician.

Charles Taylor, an accomplished funk bassist from Chicago, moved to Saskatoon in 2001. He thinks premier events like the Sasktel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival and the 2007 Juno Awards have been key in the evolution of Saskatoon's music scene.

"The Junos helped put Saskatoon — especially Broadway — on the map," said Taylor, who is a former church minister.

Taylor pioneered the Lord F.U.N.K. collective and he is the nephew of regaled blues songstress Koko Taylor, an important figure in the blues movement who influenced artists like Janis Joplin. Taylor has been offered the chance to drum with The Rolling Stones and his daughter has sung backup for R. Kelly.

Gregory Edmunds, 52, is yet another artist who has found musical bliss in Saskatoon. A skilled saxophonist of many genres, Edmunds is from Pittsburgh, and has been here since 1992. Although Edmunds agreed that Jazz Festival has helped build Saskatoon's scene, he was adamant that musicians are the fabric of the city's musical domain.

"It's the musicians that make this scene ... There's a flavour up here that I love. Saskatoon and the province support arts. They're very appreciative of their artists here," said Edmunds.

Saskatoon is a curious choice for an elite artist like Taylor who is from Chicago, a city known for its blues scene. Despite some obvious discrepancies, Taylor doesn't think that the cities are all that different.

"Chicago is a great blues city and Saskatoon is a big multicultural city. You have every genre here. To me, Saskatoon has grown to be a little mini-Chicago," he said.

"There is a pretty deadly arts scene here. There are so many wonderful artists that come up here and it's indicative of Saskatoon's scene."

Edmunds said Saskatoon's central location was integral in his decision to base himself here.

"Saskatoon's located in the Midwest. There are tons of venues here and I can go to Edmonton, Calgary or Winnipeg. This is the real deal.

Theo Brown, who sometimes plays drums with Taylor and Edmunds, and local bands Lost Boys and Sly Business, is another musician who has been drawn in by the musical allure of Saskatoon. From Philadelphia, Brown has always been astonished at the degree of talent in Saskatoon.

"There are amazing guitar players out of the city here. On any given night on Broadway now at this point, you can see a level of musicianship that is on par with the U.S.," said Brown.

DORIAN GEIGER/METRO

- **Sly Business, with George Edmunds.** June 30, Friendship Park

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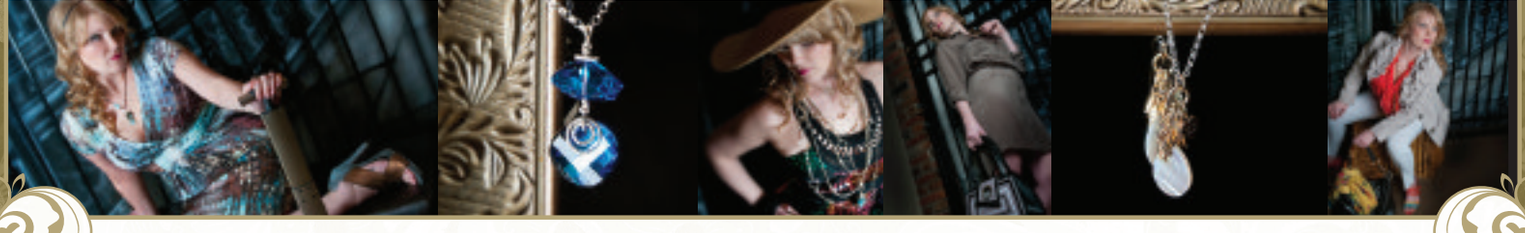

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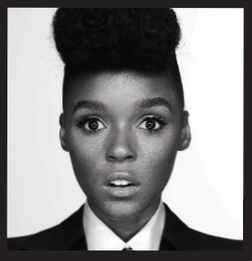

MICHAEL FRANTI > JANELLE MONÁE > ROBERT RANDOLPH > DOWNCHILD > THE ROOTS

THE ROOTS
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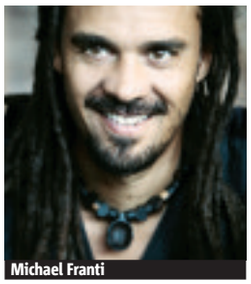

Michael Franti

Dianne Reeves

Five Alarm Funk

Schedule

2012 Sasktel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival Schedule

Friday June 22
- Michael Franti & Spearhead
- Rebirth of the Cool
- Young Empires
- Lucky Peterson

Saturday June 23
- Feist
- Wayne Shorter Quartet
- Shine On: The Universe of John Lennon
- Mayer Hawthorne
- Lucky Peterson
- The Jam feat. Outer Bridge Ensemble

Sunday June 24
- Janelle Monae
- Bill Frisell presents: All We Are Saying
- Ndidi Onukwulu
- Timber Timbre
- Solstice Brunch

Monday June 25
- Dianne Reeves
- Hooded Fang

Tuesday June 26
- Check out one of our 75+ free shows!

Wednesday June 27
- Robert Randolph & The Family Band
- Médéric Collignon
- Shine On: The Universe of John Lennon

Thursday June 28
- Metro Jazz Ensemble
- Featuring Christine & Ingrid Jensen
- Woody Holler & His Orchestra
- Five Alarm Funk
- Wild T & The Spirit
- The Jam feat. Outer Bridge Ensemble

Friday June 29
- Jill Barber & Peter Appleyard Quartet
- Get The Blessing
- Shuffle Demons
- Wild T & The Spirit
- The Jam feat. Outer Bridge Ensemble

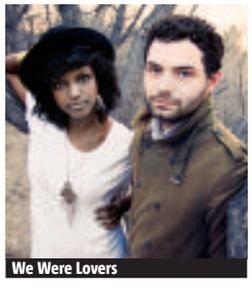
Saturday June 30
- Downchild Blues Band
- Elliott Brood
- Benny Green
- Heavyweights Brass Band
- Wild T & The Spirit
- The Jam feat. Outer Bridge Ensemble
- TD Jazz Intensive

Sunday July 1
- The Roots
- DJ Questlove

For concert locations and times, and free stage performances, visit http://saskjazz.com/schedule

Médéric Collignon

Robert Randolph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ELLIOT BROOD

The Three Amigos

JANE CAULFIELD
jane.caulfield@metronews.ca

The Toronto-based trio Elliott Brood is no stranger to Saskatoon — they've played Amigos Cantina nearly 10 times over the past few years. But being featured as part of the SaskTel Saskatoon Jazz Festival lineup exposes their roots-rock sound, captivating lyrics, and infectious energy to a larger Saskatoon crowd.

"I think it's really great that the Jazz Festival extended the invitation to us. It gets us out there to a broader spectrum of audience," says Casey Laforet, who plays the mandolin, banjo and guitar, as well as being a vocalist.

"The Saskatoon experience is always a good one."

Laforet says that playing at the Broadway Theatre will be a new experience for them and is exciting for the band. They are hoping that the audience will include some people that are not otherwise familiar with their music.

"We like to kind of surprise people with our sound," says Laforet. "Make them think 'whoa what is this? I think I kind of like this.'"

The trio burst onto the Canadian music scene in 2005 with their first full-length album Ambassador, leaving many people amazed with their hard-to-define sound. They've been referred to as death-country, alt-country, rock-country, roots, bluegrass rock and everything in between.

Whatever adjective is used to describe their sound, one thing remains constant: it works.

Their songs feature layers of perfectly welded sounds including banjo, mandolin and creative percussion.

The trio has gained a reputation for featuring real history in their lyrics and using physical geography as a muse.

"The Prairies are beautiful. Every time we cross the prairies we are amazed by the wide open vastness. It's a little scary," says Laforet.

He says they are excited to check out other acts while in town. "We will probably go and get some of that good Mexican food at Amigos too."

- **Elliot Brood.** June 30, Broadway Theatre

Inspiration

Story behind Days into Years

Elliott Brood recently released their third album, Days into Years. The album is inspired by a First World War military cemetery, which they stumbled upon during their 2007 European tour.

"We'd been driving through Belgium and France, always passing by these historical war places, and we decided to pull over and take this one in," recalls guitarist and vocalist Mark Sasso.

"We saw all these Canadian names, and it really resonated with us, these young guys that had gone off to war. I knew all about it from reading books, but when you actually visit a place where the battles were, it hits you a lot harder. We said, 'We need to write a record about it.'"

JAZZ INTENSIVE

How to be a musician 101

While the Saskatoon Jazz Festival has grown so big that it now features music from a variety of artists and a wide range of genres, jazz is still very much the heart of the festival — a fact that resonates with attendees of the TD Jazz Intensive week-long workshop for high school and university students enrolled in music programs.

Students at the workshop get hands-on, direct training with local, national and international jazz legends, which culminates in a showcase on Saturday June 30 at The Bassment.

"The idea was to create an opportunity for emerging musicians to have direct access to people who are in the business. They really get to know the inner workings of making music for a living," says Mark DeJong, workshop co-ordinator and clinician.

"We're sharing with them the tools to allow them to pursue a career in jazz, and be successful in that."

DeJong says that one of the key features is demonstrating to students that being a jazz musician is not just about technique, but also about camaraderie and good musicianship.

He says that this happens when students see workshop faculty function as a band — The Outer Bridge Ensemble, which hosts the after-hours jam sessions at the Bassment June 23, 28, 29 and 30.

"The faculty come together, but not necessarily as a band. They work as a cohesive unit," says DeJong.

The workshop is designed to expand on what students already learn in school, which typically focuses on the techniques and skills of playing big band.

DeJong says that students get an opportunity to develop their improvisation skills and to try writing and composing their own music.

The workshop often manages to get some of the festivals acts to come through and visit with the students.

"We really encourage mentorship," says DeJong.

"Faculty are connected to musicians around the world, and we try to utilize those connections every year."

For students, faculty and other visiting musicians, the jam sessions are where some of the most exciting music happens.

"Bringing musicians together of all levels is an opportunity to celebrate music. We're not just disseminating information, we're showing them," says DeJong. "People love the jam sessions."

DeJong says that registration is the highest it's ever been, citing more than 40 registered students at the time of the interview.

JANE CAULFIED/METRO

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Anthony Mackie, left, portrays Will Johnson, and Benjamin Walker stars as the title character in Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

This is no history lesson

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. Once you get past the crazy premise, the film is actually entertaining

Richard: Mark, for a movie about vampires it has very little bite. There are a couple of big action set pieces and bloodsuckers get killed by the dozen, but I thought the over reliance on computer generated effects reduces the vampire battles — and that's what we're paying to see! — to a bloody synthetic spray of binary code, and little more. What did you think?

Mark: I have rarely seen a movie with a more idiotic premise, but I have also rarely seen a movie of this type so beautifully shot or art directed. The 3D is ravishing. If you can accept the ludicrous, absurd game of revisionist history that's being played here, you might have a good time at this flick.

Synopsis

The story of Abraham Lincoln's bloodsucker battles begins in 1818 when his mother is killed by a vengeful vampire. His hatred of his mother's killer grows for years, but when he finally has the chance to even the score, he is instead, literally bitten by the urge to hunt vampires. Teaming up with a Van Helsing-esque warrior named Henry Sturgess (Dominic Cooper), he uses a silver-tipped axe to make sure America remains "a nation of men and not monsters."

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●●○○

My main problem is that the movie adopts a different tone in its last third, after Lincoln becomes President. The cleverness gives way to spectacle, and I got left behind in all the conventional carnage onscreen.

RC: I wanted the carnage! This isn't a history lesson, it's a movie about killing vampires and on that level it only works in the film's OTT action sequences. Give me more of Honest Abe jumping from horse to horse during a stampede, and less of everything else. Although I have to have a soft spot for a movie that wraps up (MILD SPOILER) with Mary Todd Lincoln saying, "Abraham! Hurry, we're late for the theatre!"

MB: And the movie lost major points for me for not showing the scene and suggesting that Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, was actually a vampire! The movie may not be a history lesson, but it does play with history, which gave it some tang for me. It sure wasn't the dialogue, or the acting. In fact, the lead, Benjamin Walker, got the part because he was the only actor who could embrace the premise without bursting into derisive laughter. You're right about the stampede scene, though. Exciting, original, and very memorable.

RC: You can't make a sequel if you kill the main character! No matter what really happened if this movie makes money, Abe will be back killing vampires, honestly.

MB: What worries me isn't the sequel, but the copycats: Franklin Roosevelt: Werewolf Killer; JFK: Alien Hunter; and worst of all, Stephen Harper: Zombie Slayer.

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

N.Y. press club not happy with Baldwin

The New York Press Club is condemning Alec Baldwin's alleged assault of a newspaper photographer outside a marriage license bureau. The press club released a statement Wednesday saying Baldwin's actions "should not be tolerated." They say he is a public figure and that his activities are "legitimate subjects of media interest." Police have confirmed that Daily News photographer Marcus Santos has filed a complaint against Baldwin. They say Santos claims he was punched while snapping photos of Baldwin and his fiancée on Tuesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Lohan's Liz & Dick checked by two guilds for workplace safety; producer says all is 'fine'

NEED A RIDE?
Read metrodrive every Wednesday.

Family Guy came first for MacFarlane before he could cuddle up with his Ted

Bear necessities.
Versatile entertainer's directorial debut was delayed due to flagship show's temporary cancellation in 2004

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The comedy Ted is about a man, Mark Wahlberg, and his talking teddy bear. HANDOUT STILL FROM MOVIE

Seth MacFarlane directs Ted and voices the teddy bear.
GETTY IMAGE OF MACFARLANE

Seth MacFarlane has certainly established himself as a bona fide entertainer, with three animated series on TV, 2.2 million Twitter followers and a burgeoning career as a crooner.

And now he makes his debut as a director with the comedy Ted.

So why has it taken him this long to get around to making a movie?

A lot of that had to do with making sure his flagship property could survive without him.

"Family Guy had that little cancellation thing happen to it," MacFarlane says, referring to the hit show's brief death in 2001 and rebirth in 2004. "I wanted to make sure that it was fully on its feet after coming back before I stepped away to do a film because it did mean stepping away from that show completely for at least a year, and that was something that I hadn't done yet."

And while Family Guy has its origins in a pair of animated film pitches MacFarlane developed, Ted took the reverse track: "This was an idea that had actually been floating around in my head for a while. I had originally conceived it as an animated series idea and for a number of reasons shelved it," he recalls. "When it came time to do my first movie, it seemed like a story that would make a much better film than a series." That idea — about a man (Mark Wahlberg) and his teddy bear (voiced by MacFarlane) that magically came to life when he was a kid — might seem cartoonish on paper, but MacFarlane's main concern was making the situation believable.

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- Review and update health and safety policies; coordinate with JHSC
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- Greet visitors and guests

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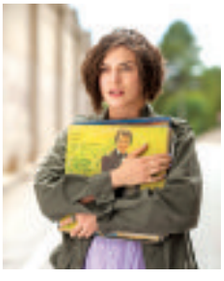
- Outstanding communication skills
- Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Office - Word, Excel & Outlook
- Attention to details and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
- Must be a team player with a great, and we mean great, sense of humor

IInterested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than June 30, 2012. PLEASE QUOTE: "Office Manager - Saskatoon" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

The end is nigh



Seeking a Friend For the End of the World

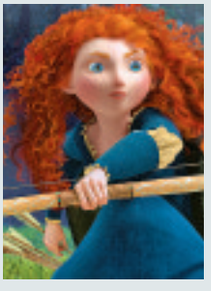
Director. Lorene Scafaria

Stars. Steve Carell and Keira Knightley

What happens when the end of the world is just days away and you meet the person of your dreams? Are you a hopeless romantic or is your romance hopeless? That's the question asked by Steve Carell and Keira Knightley in this keenly observed look at what might happen.

RICHARD CROUSE

Fable



Brave

Directors. Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman

Stars. Kelly Macdonald, Billy Connolly

Brave may not be one of Pixar studio's best films (Wall-E, Up) but it would be wrong to denounce it based on that. The Scottish fable of a tomboy princess who refuses to resign to marriage takes a surprising tonal turn once she unwittingly has her mother placed under a witch's curse.

Stunning animation and fun characters make up for a hollower helping from Pixar.

STEVE GOW

TV's Craig Ferguson

"What happens is, there are stereotypes about the Scottish people. There's the positive stereotype of the kind of noble warrior poet, and there's the negative stereotype about the angry, belligerent drunk. Both of these have a basis in fact. But what I haven't seen captured too often in films made outside of Scotland is the sense of whimsy and the sense of fun that exists in the Scottish psyche."

Talk show host Craig Ferguson, who lends his voice to the new Disney's Pixar Animation film Brave, on how will it depicts Scottish people. Originally from Scotland, Ferguson is now an American citizen with a popular late night talk show following David Letterman's.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Set in Toronto, Sarah Polley's Take this Waltz explores infidelity

Adulterous dilemma. Actress-turned-filmmaker's latest effort deals with a moral tussle that will divide audiences

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Take this Waltz divides audiences, and actor-turned-Oscar-nominated filmmaker Sarah Polley is perfectly satisfied with that.

"To me the film is a little too soft or something but I'm amazed at the way people are responding to it," said Polley in Toronto recently.

"People bring their past relationship to it, people bring their current relationship to it and I feel like they align themselves with one character or another…so I love hearing what people think the film is saying."

Named after a Leonard Cohen song, Polley's sophomore effort (in theatres June 29) sticks to her roots.

Set proudly in Toronto, Waltz explores a happily married woman's (multiple-Oscar nominated actor Michelle Williams) moral tussle with desires of infidelity when she meets a bohemian artist.

"I actually think the gender divide is really complicated on this one. I feel like it's much more common to see men on television and in movies have sexual restlessness and to still like them (despite) that," said Polley referring specifically to the popularity of Mad Men character Don Draper.

"It's interesting to me that we're more comfortable with men doing this than women still."

It's a complicated, involving film which captures the type of powerful performance Polley often delivered in her own acting achievements — an aspect of her career she admits "may take a bit of a hit".

After 27 years in front of the camera however, Take This Waltz (and the Oscar-nomination she received for writing Away From Her) establishes Polley's best work in filmmaking is yet to come.

"(Screenwriting) is my favorite part," said Polley. "Maybe I feel there's actually very little art to screenwriting. Everybody is impressed if you can write a half-decent screenplay but actually anybody who's ever watched movies could. I find it kind of hilarious."

Romanticizing Toronto

"I always imagined Toronto would be a main character in a film," said Polley. "It was like an opportunity to celebrate Toronto and really show it the way I romanticize it and idealize it and the way I love it."

- Some of Sarah Polley's work: The Adventures of Baron Munchausen; Road to Avonlea (TV series); The Sweet Hereafter; Dawn of the Dead; John Adams (TV mini-series); Away From Her (Writer/Director)

Sarah Polley on set of Take this Waltz, which opens June 29th. MICHAEL GIBSON

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JUNE 22 TO THURS., JUNE 28. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Cineplex Odeon Centre 3510 8th St. East, 306-955-1938

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 3:45-6:45 Mon-Tue 5:20 Wed 1:10-5:20 Thu 3:45-6:45
Brave (G) No Passes Sat-Sun 12 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Brave 3D (G) No Passes Fri 7:30-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:30-5-7:30-10 No Passes Mon-Wed 5:50-8:30 No Passes Thu 2:30-5-7:30-10
Desi Romeos (PG) Fri 6:55-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:35-6:55-10:15 Mon-Wed 5:20-8:40
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 9:40 Sat-Sun 12:35-9:40 Mon-Wed 8:20 Thu 9:40
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri 8:10-10:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:25-5:50-8:10-10:30 Mon-Tue 5:30-7:50 Wed 1:15-5:30-7:50 Thu 3:25-5:50-8:10-10:30
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-10:10 Mon-Tue 5:25-8:45 Thu 3:50-7-10:10
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri 5:50-10:25 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25
Snow White & the Huntsman (PG) Fri 7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:20 Mon-Wed 5:35-8:25 Thu 4:30-7:20-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon 347 2nd Ave. South, 306-664-5060

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 7:20-10 No Passes Mon-Wed 7:20-9:55 No Passes Thu 7:20-10
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) No Passes Fri 5:25-8:20-10:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:20-10:50 No Passes Mon-Wed 8-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:20-10:50
Bolshoi Ballet: Raymonda Live (STC) Sun 1
Brave (G) No Passes Fri 4:30-7-9:30 No Passes Sat 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30 No Passes Sun 2-4:30-7-9:30 No Passes Mon-Wed 7-9:40 No Passes Thu 2-4:30-7-9:30
Brave 3D (G) No Passes Fri 5:15-7:45-10:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 No Passes Mon-Wed 7:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:35-5 Thu 12:10-2:35-5
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri 5:40-8:10-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:10-10:30 Mon-Wed 7:25-9:55 Thu 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:10-10:30
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Sat-Sun 12:45 Thu 12:45
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4-7:10-10:20 Mon-Wed 7:10-10:20 Thu 4-7:10-10:20
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri 5:30-8:05-10:35 Sat 12:25-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun 5:30-8:05-10:35 Mon-Wed 7:55-10:30 Thu 12:25-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35
National Theatre Live: Frankenstein (Original Casting) (STC) Sat 12:30
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri 5:05-7:55-10:50 Sat 11:10-2:10-5:05-7:55-10:50 Sun 2:10-5:05-7:55-10:50 Mon-Wed 7:40-10:30 Thu 2:10-5:05-7:55-10:50
Rock of Ages (PG) No Passes Fri 4:40-7:40-10:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:55-4:40-7:40-10:40 No Passes Mon-Wed 7:15-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:55-4:40-7:40-10:40
Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (PG) Fri 4:55-7:30-10:05 Sat-Sun 12-2:30-4:55-7:30-10:05 Mon-Wed 7:05-9:45 Thu 12-2:30-4:55-7:30-10:05
Snow White & the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Sat 4:50-7:50-10:45 Sun 2:05-4:50-7:50-10:45 Mon-Wed 6:55-10 Thu 2:05-4:50-7:50-10:45
That's My Boy (14A) Fri 5:20-8-10:45 Sat-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Mon-Wed 7:30-10:10 Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45
We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story (STC) Sat 11

Roxy Theatre 320 20th St West, 306-955-8642

Cosmopolis (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
The Deep Blue Sea (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 2:30-8 Mon-Thu 8
Rainbow Cinemas Saskatoon The Centre at Circle & 8th, 306-955-8642
21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 1:35-4:30-7:20-10 Sat-Sun 4:30-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:20-10
Battleship (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:40
Dark Shadows (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-7-9:35
The Dictator (14A) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:25
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-4
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri-Thu 7:05-9:50
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:30-9:55
The Lucky One (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20-9:45
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Thu 1-7:25
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:05
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:10-7:15-9:30 Thu 4:10-7:15-9:30

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Alec Baldwin

Note to paparazzi: Don't mess with Alec Baldwin

Alec Baldwin insists he did not punch a photographer in New York recently, but he doesn't deny making physical contact with the man in question.

"There was a person in front of me and he was blocking him. And the guy lunged and almost hit me in the teeth with the lens of the camera. So I just pushed the guy away," Baldwin says in an interview with Charlie Rose. Baldwin also takes issue with the very nature of paparazzi: "We make ourselves available as an obligation per our contract to our employers to represent the product and help to sell the product. And then when I walk out the door, that's over," he insists.

Jim Carrey

Jim Carrey backs out of Dumb and Dumber 2

Jim Carrey won't be taking part in a Dumb and Dumber sequel after all, with his rep telling Entertainment Tonight that Carrey had become "increasingly frustrated" at Warner Bros. and New Line Cinema's delays in getting the project going.

"I would have thought Dumb and Dumber 2 was a no-brainer," Carrey says in a statement. "After all, it's implied in the title." Carrey and co-star Jeff Daniels were all set to return for the sequel, according to co-director Peter Farrelly.

The Word

Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Boredom blamed for Depp split

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis are staying quiet about their separation — meaning "inside sources" and "close friends" are extra busy.

According to one source, the reason the ultra-famous, continent-hopping couple broke up after 14 years is pretty much the same reason us mortals call it quits: boredom, with a side of sparkly things in the distance.

"He was bored senseless with her, being with Vanessa was making him miserable," a questionable friend tells Radar Online.

"The spark had gone, and there was nothing left. Johnny just wants more from life and believes Vanessa deserves to be happier too. He's not embroiled in some hot and heavy new romance and he has no plans to jump straight into something straight away, but he is keen to have some fun again."

If nothing else, the fun part seems to be true. After performing with the Black Keys at the MTV Movie Awards, Depp's been spotted out late in Hollywood with Marilyn Manson.

It's times like this we're glad we're not artistic millionaires. Can you imagine having to try new things and party with rock stars every time your life got boring? We can barely find motivation to juice the limes.

Today in the Kardashian saturation

Kim Kardashian thinks she found something special in current boyfriend Kanye West.

"It's very comforting to have someone that knows everything about you, that respects you, understands, has gone through the similar things," Kim tells Oprah in an interview airing Sunday on the OWN network. "I feel like I'm at a really happy, good space."

Kim, we know love — even your brand of it — can be blind, so listen very carefully: We all know everything about you. I spent more time at your wedding than I did at my own. This intimate, special connection you're feeling? Kanye, like the rest of us, probably just "lost" the remote one weekend.

Katy Perry

'I still believe in love and marriage': Katy Perry

Despite a heartbreaking divorce from Russell Brand after 14 months of marriage, Katy Perry is keeping positive.

"I still believe in love and marriage. I've just learned lessons along the way. I regret nothing," she tells the Hollywood Reporter. Still, it wasn't easy being on tour while her marriage was suddenly falling apart.

"What was going on in my personal life was so overwhelming that I had to bend over to let those tears fall straight out of my eye sockets and not my false lashes just as I'm about to go up on that ramp and sing Teenage Dream," she says.

"I had to smack myself across the face and say, 'These problems are my problems, they are not my audience's problems, learn to separate that.'"

Bieber tired of fans 'in his face'

Justin Bieber isn't always in the mood to indulge his adoring fans, as a group of them learned at the Toronto airport this week while Bieber waited for girlfriend Selena Gomez to arrive, according to Hollyscoop.

"Do I not have any right as a human being to sit and wait for my girlfriend?" he asked during a back-and-forth with some of the assembled fans demanding his attention, complaining that they'd been waiting all day to see him. "You say you're really my fans, why do you do this? I've had a long day too. I don't have to be nicer, you guys are in my face," Bieber replied.

Justin Bieber

Twitter

@DAVID_LYNCH
Dear Twitter Friends, I bought a 1940's toy telephone and this weekend I'm going to be making some calls. What are you up to this weekend?

@Rosie
I wanna host draw something - as a web game show

@jessicaalba
Mornin - heading to Austin for 24 hrs...

@pattonoswalt
Disturbing amount of pride being swallowed in 60's pop songs.

Liquid Assets

A wine to match those cool summer nights

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

I've never been much of a seasonal wine drinker. The thought of avoiding some bottles in favour of others because of the time of year has never made sense to me.

Sure, some wines have temperature issues. Now that summer has finally arrived, a heaping glass of full-bodied red can come across flabby and uninspired when it's hot.

I have to admit, though, summer is really the realm of whites: The kind of wines that refresh and thirst-quench without running amok all over your palate.

Some will suggest that a rich, dry Sauvignon Blanc is the king of summer. Others might choose an aromatic white like one made with Viognier or Chenin Blanc.

While all worthy contenders to the throne, riesling is my go-to warm weather white grape.

Schmitt Söhne's Fünf 5 Riesling ($9.95 - $13.99) is ripe and relaxed with apple-oriented fruit that's drinkable right out of its powder white bottle (OK, maybe with a straw).

The great thing about riesling is that it's amazingly food friendly.

It will help wash down everything from standard barbecue fare, seafood dishes and salads to more exotic menus inspired by Asia, India and, especially, Mexico.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Flex your grilling muscles with grace

Grill treats, nom, nom, nom. SUBMITTED

Traditionally, summer is a time for men to show their alpha side by getting territorial over their barbecue cooking space while sporting a ridiculous apron. It's a primal thing: raw meat, fire gazing and alcohol.

Stereotypes aside, barbecuing is globally popular and perhaps one of the few occasions that you won't complain when you're presented with a charred carcass.

However, there are ways that we can improve. Yes, gentlemen, barbecuing is not an innate skill. Chef Ben Bartlett explains why there's more to the cuisine than plonking raw meat onto a scorching grill.

Bartlett says, "It's about the flavours from the wood, marinates and spices. Flavoured woods like cherry and apple or oak add a great smokey depth to meats."

There are also some really simple things that we can do to make sure that the meat is properly cooked. The chef suggests, "If you use coals, heap them up into a pyramid add fresh fuel to the edge and push inwards — it creates a really even cooking platform. Secondly wait till your wood or coal goes ashen grey to avoid flare-ups."

The U.K.-based BBQ supremo continues, "Take your meat out 30 minutes before you cook, so that it reaches room temperature — it'll cook more evenly this way. You want to achieve a core temperature of 75 F." METRO WORLD NEWS

Mexican. Margarita Sea Bass — as seen in Ben's Top 100 BBQ Recipes

Ingredients

- 8 sea bass fillets (100 g/4 oz each)
- 100 ml (3½ oz) white or gold tequila
- 120 ml (4 oz) Cointreau
- 150 ml (5 oz) fresh lime juice
- 1 tbsp salt
- 3 garlic cloves crushed
- 3 tsp vegetable oil
- Pinch of freshly ground black pepper

Inspired by the famous Mexican cocktail, this tequila-based marinade is a perfect partner for this celebrated fish.

1. Place the fish in a zip lock bag.

2. Combine the tequila, Cointreau, lime juice, salt, garlic and 2 teaspoons of oil and pour over the fish.

3. Marinate for 30 minutes at room temperature, turning occasionally.

4. Heat the grill to very hot.

5. Remove the sea bass and pat dry.

6. Brush lightly with 1 teaspoon of oil and grind some pepper over the surface of the fish.

7. Grill for 3 to 4 minutes per side.

The flavours of this recipe are inspired by Mexico. METRO WORLDS NEWS

Ben Bartlett's top 3 tips

- Ensure that the food thermometer doesn't touch the bone as this will not give an accurate temperature indication.
- Wrap chicken breasts in cling film and flatten slightly to grill evenly.
- Halve marinating time by sealing meat in a zip lock bag.

The three must-have helpers

1 Tonale carafe and beaker
$54, alessi-shop.com

2 Anthropologie Barbecue utensils basket
$198, anthropologie.com

3 Polder BBQ safe serve instant read thermometer
$20, chefscatalog.com

3 LIFE

Trends

Coast-to-coast grilling

The 23rd Weber Canadian Grill Watch Survey is giving insight into the habits, knowledge and trends of countrywide grillers.

- Nine out of 10 Canadians own a gas grill; 78 per cent own one grill, while almost 20 per cent own two.
- Men are the primary grillers (63 per cent).
- Hamburgers are the most-often grilled food item (56 per cent); steak is the all-time favourite food item (48 per cent).
- Men are more likely than women to add flavour with hot sauces or jalapenos.
- Reasons for grilling include for fun (81 per cent), as a way to relax (66 per cent), for the taste (61 per cent).
- Canadians who own grills entertain 11 times per year on average, and will grill when entertaining an average of six times per year.

NEWS CANADA / WEBER

On the web

Book on managing diabetes fits well into any lifestyle as it promotes healthy eating

4

SPORTS

NHL

Opening night full of Canadian content

Four Canadian teams will be in action when the 2012-13 NHL regular season kicks off on Thursday, Oct. 11. The Montreal Canadiens will host the Ottawa Senators and the Calgary Flames will entertain the Vancouver Canucks, the league announced Thursday in a release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Edmonton-born Victor Cui is looking to grow MMA in Asia. Cui's organization is staging its fourth show in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Saturday and the former director of communications with the Royal Canadian Golf Association says he's never seen "this big of an opportunity" to grow a sport. Scan the code for the story.

LeBron James celebrates with the Larry O'Brien trophy on Thursday night in Miami. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Heat's Big 3 top OKC for championship

NBA. James has triple-double as Miami clinches title against Thunder in Game 5

The decision is final: LeBron James made the right call coming to Miami.

Finally an NBA champion, it's all worth it now.

James had 26 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists, and got the kind of help that was worth leaving home for, leading the Heat in a 121-106 rout of the Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday night to win the NBA finals in five games.

Best player in the game, best team in the league.

Game 5

121	106
Heat	Thunder

James has found it all since taking his talents to South Beach.

"It means everything," James said moments after the win. "I made a difficult decision to leave Cleveland but I understood what my future was about.... I knew we had a bright future (in Miami). This is a dream come true for me. This is definitely when it pays off."

James added the finals MVP honour to his regular-season award, calling it "the happiest day of my life" during the award ceremony as he stood atop the championship podium with his teammates.

He left the game along with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh for good with 3:01 remaining for a round of hugs and the start for a celebration he's been waiting for since arriving in the NBA out of high school as the No. 1 pick of the 2003 draft. James hopped up and down in the final minutes, shared a long hug with opponent Kevin Durant, and then smiled as he watched the confetti rain down from the rafters.

"It's about damn time. It's about damn time," James said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three-for-three

Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade, the other members of the Big Three who sat alongside James as he promised titles at his Miami welcoming party two summers ago, both had strong games.

- Bosh, who broke down in tears as the Heat left their own court after losing Game 6 last year, finished with 24 points and Wade scored 20.

Euro 2012

Moutinho sets up Ronaldo's goal in Portugal's victory over Czech Republic

Even the best scorers need someone to set them up.

Joao Moutinho did exactly that for Cristiano Ronaldo on Thursday, providing the precise cross for the only goal in Portugal's 1-0 victory over the Czech Republic.

The 25-year-old Moutinho showed he is a contender to become the top-class playmaker that Portugal is looking for. And he'll get another chance to impress when the Portuguese face either Spain or France in the European Championship semifinals on Wednesday in Donetsk, Ukraine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Euro 2012

Greeks prep for Germans without 'heart of the team'

Faced with another "David vs. Goliath" scenario against Germany in the European Championship quarter-final, the Greeks will draw inspiration from their winning side at Euro 2004.

Captain Giorgos Karagounis, whose goal sealed Greece's place in the last eight, is suspended for Friday's match in Gdansk, Poland, after receiving a yellow card for diving in the 1-0 win over Russia.

"We'll miss Giorgos tomorrow," Greece striker Fanis Gekas said Thursday. "He's the heart of the team. We'll have to close ranks to win."

But that's nothing new to a defensive-minded Greece, which will be underdogs against Germany — the only team to win all three group matches at Euro 2012.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top prospect Yakupov weary of KHL question

Nail Yakupov speaks to the media Wednesday in Pittsburgh.
JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES

The question comes up often in Nail Yakupov's meetings with NHL scouts and general managers. And even though the 18-year-old Russian is still learning English, he can't help but tense up the second he hears the letters "KHL."

The player projected to be the likely No. 1 pick when the NHL draft gets underway in Pittsburgh on Friday understands why he's continually asked how committed he is to playing in North America.

"In the draft they don't want to wonder if some player is going to KHL," Yakupov said. "They just want to (us to) play in NHL and work hard."

Quoted

"It's not my deal what teams think, if they don't trust me or not. I want to play in NHL."

Nail Yakupov

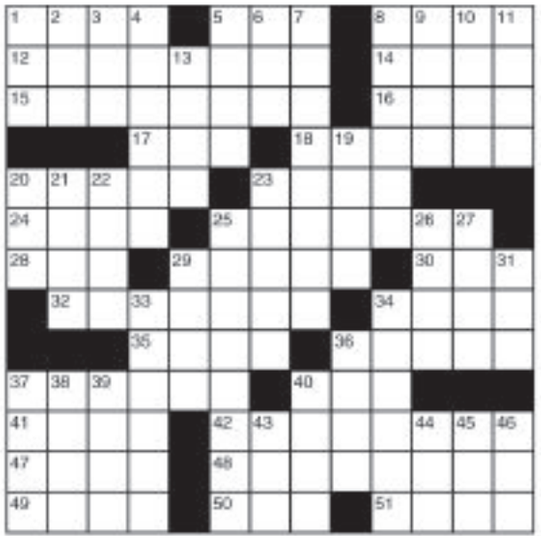
Yakupov is growing tired of repeating himself, but skepticism is part of the territory now that the once-fertile pipeline between Russia and the NHL has started to dry up. The big-time paydays — not to mention shorter schedule — of the Kontinental Hockey League has many Russian stars opting to stay home rather than lace up their skates halfway around the world.

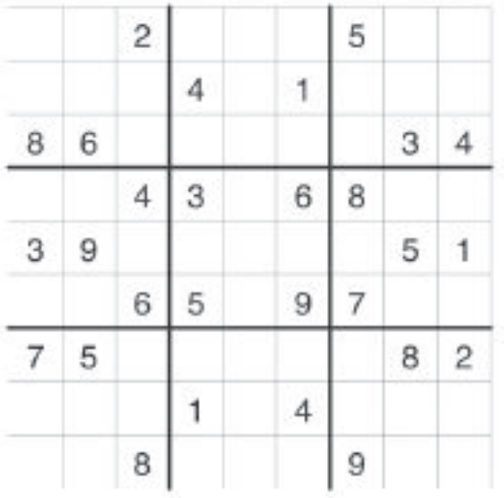
Two other players with Russian ties — Alex Galchenyuk and Mikhail Grigorenko — are counted among the top forwards available. All three pose high-risk, high-reward scenarios.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Across
1 Mediocre
5 Treasure seeker's aid
8 Singer Suzanne
12 Tubular pasta
14 "American —"
15 Grandly dramatic
16 "Arrivederci"
17 Homer's interjection
18 Fine fish container?
20 Bonfire residue
23 Half (Pref.)
24 Rain in buckets
25 Best
28 Shade tree
29 Cove
30 Stolen
32 The great outdoors
34 Darling
35 N.Dak. neighbor
36 Horror-film villain
37 Past
40 Varnish ingredient
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Phone-company employee
47 Desire
48 Break
49 Afternoon get-togethers
50 Dandy
51 Staircase component

Down
1 Sis' relative
2 Pout protruder
3 Candle count
4 Not so easy
5 Butterfly look-alike
6 Black bird
7 A striking figure?
8 Prey
9 Tend texts
10 Hockey score
11 Soothing additive
13 New Mexico art colony
19 Send forth
20 Gorilla
21 Unaccompanied
22 Camel feature
23 Bowler's problem
25 Occasionally
26 Throat-clearing sound
27 Silty soil
29 Part of the loop
31 Attempt
33 Overacts
34 Old gold coins
36 Artist Chagall
37 Very dry, as champagne
38 Green land
39 Spiritual discipline
40 Bound
43 Aye voter
44 Egyptian boy king
45 Raw rocks
46 Agent, for short

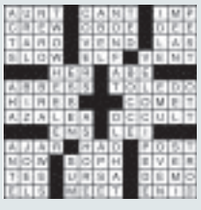




How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

T H T D N Y M N Q M U U A U
N G A S J J K M Y T Q P A H G C A A P O
A D M G A P B K N O , T U M I Y A Q
T J I A S C P G M N J B R M - A J B R A .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IN A TELEMARKETING OFFICE, DO YOU SUPPOSE EMPLOYEES' CO-WORKERS ARE CONSIDERED CALL-LEAGUES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals R

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Friends and work colleagues will ask for your opinions today, because they know you will tell them the truth. Don't be too brutal though.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Stick with what you know and trust. The planets warn that if you change, you will make a mistake and damage your reputation for efficiency.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. If you follow a hunch today, you will be delighted with the results. However, if someone else wants you to follow their hunches, you must decline.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Make your opinions known. Mercury in your sign gives you insights that other people do not possess, so speak up no matter how unpopular some of your ideas might be.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Something that just a few days ago seemed too much for you, will look remarkably easy today.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You've made enough concessions of late and now you must get tough with people who are abusing your generous nature.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. An issue you have been struggling with for several weeks will resolve itself today. Even so, you should give some thought as to why it took such a long time to be worked out.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Creative activities will work out well today, but they will work out even better if you bring people into your confidence and let them know what it is you are trying to accomplish.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Someone in a position of authority will give you the chance to prove yourself today and you must seize it with both hands.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. What happens today will answer at least some of the questions you have been asking in recent weeks.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You would like to go back and undo a mistake that had far-reaching consequences, but you know that's not possible. All you can do is learn from the situation.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You may not get along with a someone but you'll have to work closely with each other today. The planets indicate there is a karmic attachment between you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"So this is how Jonas felt in the belly of the whale!!!"
Jason

FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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HUMANITARIAN COALITION members are on the ground providing immediate relief to suffering children and their families.

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$100 = Feed a mother and child for five months

$250 = Feed five families for six weeks

HUMANITARIAN COALITION

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